

7-22-2010

W. Beaumont to Mr. Dick regarding: phlegmonous inflammation and abscess, cure of chronic umbilical fistula. W. Beaumont to Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock regarding: investment of Hitchcock's money, concern for safety in Mexican War. February 1847

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/beaumont\\_1847\\_1848](http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/beaumont_1847_1848)

 Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

W. Beaumont to Mr. Dick regarding: phlegmonous inflammation and abscess, cure of chronic umbilical fistula. W. Beaumont to Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock regarding: investment of Hitchcock's money, concern for safety in Mexican War. February 1847. Beaumont, William. Bernard Becker Medical Library Archives. Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, Missouri. [http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/beaumont\\_1847\\_1848/14](http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/beaumont_1847_1848/14)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Correspondence (1807-1879) at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1847 - 1848 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact [engeszer@wustl.edu](mailto:engeszer@wustl.edu).







I suppose you are now in command of  
 of Regt. <sup>of Niagara</sup> at Fort Niagara or, perhaps  
 before this you may have led the furthest hope  
 in taking Fort Erie & storming the Castle of  
 San Juan or, you may have personally fallen  
 in the attempt. But, Oh! God grant that  
 you may not have been so unfortunate or  
 even injured. & that you may be preserved  
 safely <sup>from the dangers</sup> from the field of action, ~~the dangers of a safe~~  
~~or disgrace of a defeat!~~ - But until you  
 shall have fully & faithfully discharged  
 your official duties & belligerent obligations,  
~~the Government~~ when may you speedily return  
 in safety & in health to this more congenial  
 place of people to bless us again with your  
 happy presence & invaluable society & friendship.

We have all sorts of public rumors  
 here about the operations of the army, but no  
 reliance can be placed upon them - every  
 thing pertaining to the prosecution of the war, of  
 late seems in more than the greatest confusion  
 & uncertainty, bordering on total disaster  
 if not disgrace to our national character.

I am fast becoming a convert to Emancipation  
 doctrine, of order & respect also to your  
 views & opinions of the unrighteousness &  
 absurdity of the present war & manner of con-  
 ducting it. We hope to hear from you  
 daily - but have no <sup>letter</sup> date from the Jan'y  
 from the Broags or thereabouts. I rely upon  
 you for correct information & suggestions.  
 I hope you will furnish us with it as  
 often as you can conveniently - your letters  
 & their contents will safely remain in the  
 sanctuary of our own family. you  
 may be assured <sup>may</sup> God bless & preserve

you in all your pious & proper  
 you in all conditions & dangerous engage-  
 ments - exempt you from disease, or  
 sufferings, & soon restore you to our friends  
 & friends.

Very respectfully & sincerely

W. B.



Mr Dick - <sup>may</sup> please assure his sister Mrs Engle. of my  
affm assurances of continued esteem. may say of  
his sister Mrs Engle. that D.B.

after assurance of continued respect Mr Dick. may say  
to his sister Mrs. Gnyke. that Dr. B. very fully & a  
truly valiantly in her dear little archer will  
bring & perfect restoration to health & soundness. &  
will most readily & cheerfully contribute to the gratification  
of suggesting his views & opinions to  
for the gratification - by suggestion by, very  
& opinion of Archer's case &c.

See accor In answer

In willing accordance with the above extract. Mr Oak  
may assure his Sister of Dr Beaumont's continued  
esteem & friendship for herself & lively interest in  
the well being, health & soundness of her dear little  
son Archie & most cheerfully tenders such  
suggestions as he thinks may be most conducive  
to her gratification & happiness -

I have always conceived Archibald's disease to have been originally a plegmorous inflammation & abscess of the abdominal muscles - probably <sup>in</sup> the inter-  
stices of the tissues. terminating in a fistulous opening at the umbilicus or navel - & which, like other common abscesses, would have closed & healed in a few weeks. but for the difficulty & loss of the <sup>well known</sup> practicability of <sup>from my exp. hear & experience</sup> enlarging the opening, or injecting & compressing the sinews, from the child's fear & irascibility of disposition.

The same difficulties I suppose exist now - a chronic fistulous ulcer has still exist. occasionally <sup>subiding & giving pain by</sup> ~~bursting~~ <sup>bursting</sup> & ~~bursting~~ <sup>bursting</sup> closing or being obstructed <sup>& causing the matter</sup> from the saltness of the outlet.

And I think now as ~~then~~ when they left her. That all to enlarge or make the orifice or make a ~~small~~ counter opening. & inject into the sinuses some stimulating fluid. Such as diluted Tincture of Iodine - Tincture of Myrrh & Croscote. or the like, <sup>a few drops</sup> with suitable compress & bandage is all that would be



To. outside  
Cal. X. 1847